

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

In the Office Action, claims 1-13, 17-29, 33-45, 49 and 50 were pending.

In the Office Action, claims 1-13, 17-29, 33-45, 49 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,163,771 to Walker et al. ("Walker") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,575,372 to Everett et al. ("Everett"). Claims 20, 21, and 33-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as allegedly indefinite.

Applicants' reply

Applicants' representative thanks the Supervisory Examiner for his time during the telephonic interview of December 30, 2008. The Supervisory Examiner and Applicants' representative discussed the cited references and claim rejections as set forth in the Office Action and discussed the amendments presented above. During the interview, the Supervisory Examiner indicated that the present claim amendments would likely overcome the art of record, but indicated that further discussion with the Examiner would be necessary to make that determination. Applicants' representative then discussed the proposed amendments with the Examiner on February 10, 2009, and he also indicated that the proposed amendments would likely overcome the art of record. Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact Applicants' representatives at any time to discuss this application if the Examiner determines that these amended claims are not in condition for allowance.

In this amendment and response, Applicants address the Examiner's objections and rejections. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application. As such, no new matter has been added. The amendments are made solely to expedite prosecution and do not constitute an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's objections or rejections. Applicants

reserve the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in a subsequent application.

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-13, 17-29, 33-45, 49 and 50 are pending.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims of the present application are allowable over the prior art of record. Applicants thus respectfully request the previous rejections be withdrawn, and that the pending claims be allowed by the Examiner. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of this application are respectfully requested. In the event that the application is not deemed in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (212) 408-2538 in an effort to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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